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Press Release

7073 RADIO ROAD
FORT POLK LA 71459-5342
Voice: (337) 531-4630
Fax: (337) 531-6014



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact: Samantha Evans (337) 531-4630

Brigade Special Troops Battalion Soldiers Train for Urban Warfare

Spc. KATRINA L. FAULKNER-BROWN
4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division
Public Affairs Office

FORT POLK, La. – Soldiers from Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, participated in urban live-fire training at Range 16A from June 4 to June 13.

Four-man teams of Soldiers trained to move from one covered position to another while communicating with each other, maintaining muzzle awareness, practicing safety and making strategic moves within an operation on the range, which included simulated a town with a Mediterranean courtyard.

“They have to move from this wall as if they are patrolling on the street or some other urban environment and move to cover in a concealed position, assess the situation and determine if there’s a building or a courtyard,” said Maj. Brian Manus, executive officer, BSTB. “That’s their objective. They know that’s where the enemy is, and they must take the fight to the enemy and then go in and clear the courtyard. And that’s where we stop them.”

It is important for all Soldiers to be trained in infantry tasks, said Manus.

“A lot of our elements are attached to maneuver units, and, in that role, while they may not necessarily be on a patrol, some of them will find themselves doing that,” Manus said.

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Soldiers and leaders enjoyed the exercise due to the close coaching of each team.

"It was my first time leading a team in a combat situation, so I got a lot out of it," said Sgt. Kristin M. Nagy, Persian Farsi linguist, Bravo Company, BSTB. "The only thing I would do differently is to go over it in my mind a little longer."

Safety and competency in a combat environment were the biggest themes.

"It wasn't really hard. The hardest part is that it's hot out here," Pfc. Brittany R. Lovell, supply specialist, Bravo Company, BSTB. "The set-up was like a real place, and it was realistic."

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(Story and photos by Spc. Faulkner-Brown)

Cut lines:

Livefire1:Sgt. Kristine Nagy, Persian Farsi linguist, Bravo Company, BSTB; Master Sgt. Lawrence Driscoll, training non-commissioned officer-in-charge, BSTB; Sgt. Jeffrey O'Brian, human intelligence analyst, Bravo Company, BSTB; and Spc. Joshua Wrigley, intelligence analyst, Bravo Company, BSTB; negotiate the first cover position during the battalion's urban situational live-fire exercise on Range 16A June 13.

Livefire2:Master Sgt. Lawrence Driscoll, training non-commissioned officer-in-charge, BSTB; Spc. Joshua A. Wrigley, intelligence analyst, Bravo Company, BSTB; Sgt. Kristine M. Nagy, Persian Farsi linguist, Bravo Company, BSTB; and Sgt Jeffrey F. O'Brian, human intelligence collector, Bravo Company, BSTB; enter a simulated courtyard during an urban situational live-fire exercise on Range 16A June 13.